

A Leading Edge

Leadership conference provides tools for professional, personal growth

by Rhonda K. Leschisin



Tomorrow's leaders. Wisconsin participants enjoyed the gangster theme party as part of the 2003 New Practitioner Leadership Conference.

When I was asked to write an article about the New Practitioner Leadership Conference, I brainstormed by sifting through archived issues of *JPSW*, searching for any article I could find that related to leadership. I stumbled upon photographs of past participants of the Conference, and as I studied the faces and skimmed the names, one thing became clear: I recognized many of the faces. Whether I recognized them from their active participation in PSW or national pharmacy organizations, from a speech they gave at a state or national meeting, from a clerkship site where we had practice together, or because they had been my instructor at Rennebohm Hall, one thing was clear in my mind, these pharmacists had contributed greatly to the exceptional mix of leaders in the profession of pharmacy.

Designed to assist with the development of organizational skills that will enhance both professional and personal growth, the New Practitioner Leadership Conference is a

unique opportunity available to pharmacists who are in their first ten years of practice and would like to become more effective leaders. The Conference began in 1989 in Iowa, and later became a joint program with Wisconsin in 1993. The 16th Annual Conference will be held August 26 to 29 at the beautiful Eagle Ridge Inn and Resort in Galena, Illinois. All programs allow participants to reflect on their own professional practice. Friday will focus on personal and professional leadership, while Saturday will concentrate on issues facing contemporary pharmacy practice. Sunday will conclude with a wrap-up session designed to provide participants with direction on how to implement their newly acquired leadership skills.

Not only do participants learn new leadership skills, they also have a great opportunity to meet other colleagues.

GOALS

of the New Practitioner Leadership Conference

- Provide participants with strong leadership training
- Increase participants' awareness of issues impacting the profession of pharmacy nationally and in their own state
- Encourage involvement of all new practitioners in professional and community activities
- Demonstrate the interest of the state pharmacy organizations in developing new practitioners for leadership positions within the profession


Ten pharmacists from Wisconsin and ten from Iowa are selected each year to participate in the Conference, which is a clever mix of educational sessions with social events. A 2003 participant commented, "I didn't expect to develop relationships with as many participants as I did." Pharmacists are selected from many different practice areas and are put into

groups for lodging purposes. This facilitates interaction and helps provide a network of colleagues that participants can look forward to networking with at other state and national pharmacy meetings.

Although applicants are partially selected based upon current or past involvement in professional, community, or student activities, it is not necessary for

applicants to be currently active in leadership roles to be selected. For those who feel that they lack leadership skills, this program is designed to provide those skills, as well as help in fostering self-confidence. A 2003 participant wrote "even if you don't feel like you are a leader now, the Conference will help you develop leadership skills to become one." Another 2003 participant stated "I feel less intimidated now about becoming involved in my state association than before I attended the conference." Past participants were not necessarily selected for the Conference because of what they had accomplished; instead, they went on to accomplish in part because of the Conference. A 2003 participant wrote "thank you for a fantastic opportunity. I feel charged to make it worth your while by giving back to the profession."

Pharmacists who want to better develop their leadership potential and who desire to make a difference in their profes-



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WWW.PSWI.ORG/MEETINGS/LEADERSHIP/NOMINATION.PDF

sion and in the communities in which they practice are encouraged to apply. In recognition of the importance of the Conference to the development of future leadership for the profession of pharmacy, participants will have room, board, and all other associated costs provided by PSW, the Iowa Pharmacy Association, and corporate sponsors.

As a recipient of a prestigious national leadership excellence award, PSW Executive Vice President Chris Decker has been a great advocate for encouraging pharmacy leadership opportunities and professional growth. According to Decker, effective leaders have purpose, understanding and optimism. "Pharmacy will live and die as a profession based on the success of its practitioners," he has said. "Assume leadership opportunities. The profession needs you." ●

Rhonda K. Leschisin, is a 4th year PharmD student. She is currently completing a clerkship at the PSW headquarters office.

For a review of the 2003 New Practitioner Leadership Conference, see page 38 of the November/December 2003 *JPSW*.

Past Leadership Conference Participants

How many do you know?

Steven J. Almeida, RPh
 Hannet RN. Ambord, PharmD, MS
 Joanne Antonopoulos, PharmD
 Jodi R. Arrowood, RPh, PharmD
 Ann M. Bachar, RPh
 Kurt R. Begalke, RPh
 Christine M. Brueckbauer, RPh
 Anthony D. Chaffee, RPh, MS
 Kerry A. Cholka, PharmD
 Marianne E. Cole, RPh
 Deann C. Cushman, RPh
 Catherine A. Decker, PharmD
 Ryan C. Dow, PharmD, RPh
 Brent J. Eberle, RPh
 David W. Eddy, RPh
 David A. Ehlert, PharmD, RPh
 Kimberly Ehlert, RPh, PharmD
 Colleen M. Englebert, RPh
 Douglas A. Englebert, RPh, MBA
 John C. Fafinski, RPh
 Michelle E. Farrell, RPh, PharmD
 Laurie Flagel Dean, RPh, JD
 Jeffery P. Fox, RPh
 Timothy A. Gehrke, RPh
 Michael F. Gillard, PharmD
 Marcy S. Glisczynski, RPh, PharmD
 Eric R. Gresens, RPh
 Jenna N. Gresens, RPh
 Jennifer T. Grimm, RPh
 Dean M. Gruber, RPh
 Mike M. Grunske, RPh, PharmD
 Vanessa M. Grunske, RPh, PharmD
 Cathy J. Hamann, RPh
 Karen R. Hansen, RPh
 Kate N. Hillyer, PharmD
 Kevin M. Hoey, RPh
 Susan M. Honzelka, RPh
 Christopher W. Hutchinson, RPh
 Mark R. Jacobs, RPh, FASCP
 Matthew P. Johnson, RPh
 Megan R. Johnson, PharmD
 Jennifer A. Kammerer, RPh
 Nathan L. Kanous, II, PharmD, RPh
 Jeffrey A. Kirchner, RPh
 Cindy L. Kissack, RPh
 Christopher J. Klink, RPh, PharmD
 David M. Kuzma, RPh
 King-Man Kwok, RPh
 Trudi L. Lane, RPh
 Scott R. Larson, RPh
 David S. Lattos, RPh
 Catherine M. Lea, RPh

Charlie S. Lee, RPh
 Teresa R. Lenaerts, PharmD
 Barbara A. Madsen, RPh
 Steven R. Maike, RPh
 Allan T. Mailloux, PharmD
 Dennis A. Malone, Jr., RPh, PharmD
 Beth A. Martin, RPh, MS
 Ellen E. Mathiason, RPh
 Julia E. McMahon, RPh
 Patrick D. Meek, PharmD, RPh
 Timothy R. Melin, RPh
 Doug A. Meyer, RPh, MBA
 John M. Miller, PharmD, RPh
 Dean D. Milosch, RPh
 Rebecca Moioffer, RPh
 Jennifer G. Moran, RPh
 Jody J. Muniz, RPh, CCN
 Sunday K. Muniz, RPh, CCN
 Michael L. Ochowski, RPh
 Kristen Dee Ohlrogge, PharmD
 Michelle M. Olszewski, RPh
 Angela C. Paniagua, RPh
 Ryan P. Peterson, RPh
 Patty Prince, RPh
 Sarah C. Ray, PharmD
 Theodore S. Regalia, RPh
 Paul G. Rosowski, RPh, MS
 Thomas B. Rough, RPh, MS
 Kim M. Rutter, PharmD
 Jennifer L. Ryan, RPh
 Anne M. Rygiewicz
 Tim Samuelson, RPh
 Matthew K. Sanger, RPh
 Jason Schwager, RPh
 Kristen A. Shah, PharmD
 J. Jason Sims, PharmD
 Christine M. Smith, PharmD
 Cynthia J. Steffen, RPh
 Mary Ann E. Steiner, PharmD, RPh
 Heidi M. Timmerman, RPh
 Philip J. Trapskin, PharmD
 Jill M. Underberg, PharmD
 Samuel Vang, RPh
 Christine L. Vogt, RPh
 Tait Waeger
 Terri A. Wallner, RPh
 Sue Wilhelm, RPh
 Staci L. Williams, PharmD, RPh
 Darrin D. Wirkes, RPh
 Jennifer A. York, RPh
 Trent E. Zeitler, RPh
 Jennifer J. Zimmer Young, PharmD